

Hi everyone

Welcome to the February Newsletter for the Biggin Hill Airport Users Database.

Welcome also to any new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.

You are reminded that for Database subscribing members, even if your Newsletter doesn't arrive by email at the beginning of the month, you can always view it online, as well as any back copies of this Newsletter by visiting the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

(If you have not received your copy within 24 hours of the beginning of the month, please check the club website above where you can find and draw it down for yourself!)

JANUARY WEATHER

Well – January didn't start too well, with lots of foggy days and low cloud bases, plus significant crosswinds all of which made it quite difficult to start the flying year for many of us.

But by about the 10th we had a typical wonderful Winters day – crisp, clear, cloudless, and light winds.... And to mark that, the skies were then very active with light aircraft, as well, of course, with the corporate jets...

At the time of going to press, we have now had some good flying days, but still had lots of unflyable days because of low cloud, or very poor visibility, or seriously high winds.

Hopefully Spring is on the way.....

LIGHT AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY IN JANUARY

After the quite unpleasant December weather, we were hopeful of some wonderful crisp and clear flying days in January, but as described above, the month started with unusually unpleasant weather conditions for General Aviation and Training. But then we did get "some" much better days, albeit interspersed with the rubbish weather conditions that we had been experiencing previously – in fairness though, we do expect conditions on January and February to be at the very least "wintery", even if we had hoped it wouldn't be for quite so many days.....

Still, as said above – hopefully Spring will be with us in a month or two, and we can look forward to more flyable weather then....

NOISE ABATEMENT PROCEDURES AND NOISE SENSITIVE AREAS (NSA's)

Not much more I need to say here, as we've covered it quite thoroughly in the previous couple of Newsletters. But just a reminder, particularly for those who have been unable, because of the weather, to keep in good flying practice – please do make sure you are fully familiar with the Airport's Noise Abatement Procedures, and the exact location and profile of all the Noise Sensitive Areas, which must be avoided.

Please note that the exact profile of these areas, whilst shown on such systems as SkyDemon and the like, are not completely accurately depicted on their maps that lots of us use for guidance. If you are not sure, can I suggest calling in at the Operations room in the terminal and asking for accurate information from them.

You should be aware that the airport is endeavouring to get the NSA's redrawn on SkyDemon's system maps to reflect more accurately the boundaries of them all, which should make avoidance of inadvertent entry simpler and more practical for us all.

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

As discussed previously, the new developments are racing ahead.

The massive new Bombardier hangar complex is looking extremely close to completion now, with the area leading up to their entrance road, the area previously being used to produce the concrete for the ramp, and everything associated with the development, now having been removed from the area adjacent to the airport road around the back. It is expected that the company will start to operate within the new complex by around the end of March.

Also, as discussed, the new airport hotel (The Landings), right by the main South Camp entrance at the roundabout, is now well and truly underway, with the building framework looking pretty complete now. The hotel is expected to be fully open and operational towards the end of this year.

The airport is also planning extensive improvements and resurfacing of the South Camp roadway (Churchill Way) from the roundabout right round to Heritage Hangar and Alouette Flying Club, together with new roadway lighting. This work is expected to commence fairly soon....

It has now been suggested and strongly rumoured that the Lookout Café is hoped to be re-opened some time in March. (Apparently the “Mansi Suite” for Covid 19 testing is moving, or has moved, to the Terminal side of the airport to continue it’s valuable service from there).

The Lookout was always great for airport staff, owners and club members, and of course the local residents and the general public, who always liked the café and made quite extensive use of it. Here’s hoping that rumour is correct and we can all welcome back the staff that worked so hard and well for us all...

AIRPORT SECURITY

As a result of serious changes to the DfT’s requirements for airport security, there are significant changes forced upon the airport management by them.

These changes will include ID card airside access gates on the East camp. Persons requiring airside access will have to hold a valid Airport Photo ID Security card – this will include all engineering staff as well as pilots accessing their aircraft.

Once the gates are in position (around 8 to 10 weeks), anyone not holding a valid ID card will be denied access to airside premises and equipment.

There is a much more detailed procedure and paperwork required for anyone needing to apply for a pass (New application form too) so please do not wait until the last minute to get your application underway! You should note that, once the application and relevant references and other required documentation is passed to the Airport, they are required to carry out an Accreditation Check BEFORE an appointment can be made to obtain the Pass – this Accreditation Check will take around 5 working days from when the check is actually sent off and initiated!

If you are a flying club member, or a customer of a maintenance organisation or tenant on the airport, they will have access to the appropriate form that will be required to be completed and with details of all additional requirements that must be satisfied. However, if you have any doubts or if you require any further help, please contact the Airport’s Security Administration Officer, Sally Taylor on 01959-578517 or by email at Sally.Taylor@bigginhillairport.com

FEBRUARY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The “posted” Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of February 2022 are:

£1:79.8 per litre for 100LL Avgas if supplied from the Fuel Bowser (if uplifted using fuel account card Only from the Self-Refuel pumps = minus 5p per litre)

£0:78.8 per litre for Jet A1 (or £1:13.5 per litre for “Sustainable Aviation Fuel”!)

SPECIAL NOTES: Users are advised that credit and debit cards can no longer be used at the self-refuel pumps. If you use self-refuelling, you will need your airport H-TEC fuel account card with you when you go there. (if you haven't got one with you, you will have to go over to the Main Terminal apron to uplift fuel from the bowsers instead).

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS, BUSINESSES & OTHER AIRPORT USER

If you would like me to include your business or personal comments in the Newsletter, either on a regular basis, or just occasionally, please drop me an email with your contact details and the requested contribution and I will try to include it in the next Newsletter. I will acknowledge anything sent to me for inclusion. (Please email: John Willis at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

ALOUETTE FLYING CLUB

A bright but slightly windy end to what has been a mixed month weather-wise. However, the momentous news from Alouette this month is that our very own Phil Hobson finally flew his first solo. Maybe it was winning the Don Perch Award, maybe it was the fresh new year, maybe it was just his Weetabix, but it's been a long time coming and we are all very happy for him. Well done Phil!

No pilot can ever forget their first solo. The calm routine of running through the familiar checks and drills then realising, at some point, that the instructor is not there and you are alone for the first time in the air. For me it was halfway along the downwind leg for runway 28 at Head corn when I suddenly realised I could stretch out my right arm. It gave me a beaming smile at the time and thinking about it again has made me smile now!

These are the moments that flying is all about and what we at Alouette love to make happen. So if you have an airborne itch that needs scratching, you know where to find us.

That's all from me - Until next month - Enjoy your flying....

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

The airport CEO, David Winstanley, was away on holiday at the time of producing this Newsletter and going to press. He has sent me his sincere apologies to pass on to everyone and hopes to be able to return to adding his usual section again next month.

I'm sure we all wish him a great holiday, and look forward to hearing from him again next month. [Ed]

ROLL OF HONOUR

Thank you to members that continue to provide us with additional names of old Biggin Hill'ites who we had missed. The Roll of Honour can be seen on the website at www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk

(Anyone who flew from, or worked, or even socialised regularly at the airport since it became a civilian base in 1959/60 and who has passed away, should ideally be included on there. If you know of

someone whose name belongs on the Roll, please email me with their names, and details at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

DATABASE EMAIL ADDRESSES

A constantly updated list of database members can be seen at <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk>
Please remember to let me know if your email address is changed. If you know others who are not on the list but are eligible to join (i.e. if they currently fly from the airport, or work there, or ever have done so in the past) please let me know or tell them about us – Database membership is, of course, free.

That's it for this month.

Enjoy your flying if we are lucky enough to get any decent weather in February!

Please stay well and stay safe.....

John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

And Finally: As usual, a few amusing stories that, according to the many comments I receive about this section, is very popular amongst the membership. (As always, no offence to anyone is ever intended!). Thanks to everyone for sending their contributions to this section....

To avoid me running out of them, please keep them coming by email to john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk

QUOTE.....

David Beckham's son was about to play football in a junior team.

He went up to his father and asked 'Father, what number should I wear?'

Beckham replied: 'Romeo, Romeo. Wear 4 out there Romeo'

(Terrible isn't it!) ...

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Paddy walks into the site office carrying a flask.

Murphy asks, "What you got there then?"

Paddy says, "Tis a new flask"

Murphy, "What's it do then?"

Paddy says, "It keeps hot tings hot and cold tings cold."

Murphy, "So what you got in it then?"

Paddy, "Two cups of coffee and an ice cream."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A woman goes to the Doctor, worried about her husband's temper.

The Doctor asks, "What's the problem?"

The woman says, "Doctor, I don't know what to do. Every day my husband seems to lose his temper for no reason. It scares me."

The Doctor says, "I have a cure for that. When it seems that your husband is getting angry, just take a glass of water and start swishing it in your mouth. Just swish and swish but don't swallow it until he either leaves the room or calms down."

Two weeks later the woman comes back to the Doctor looking fresh and reborn.

The woman says, "Doctor that was a brilliant idea! Every time my husband started losing it, I swished with water. I swished and swished, and he calmed right down! How does a glass of water do that?"

The Doctor says, "The water itself does nothing. It's keeping your mouth shut that does the trick".
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A customer suffered a serious heart attack while in an American supermarket. The manager called 911 when the old man was seen to collapse.

The paramedics rushed him to the nearest hospital where he had emergency open heart bypass surgery.

He awakened from the operation to find himself in the care of nuns at the local Catholic Hospital. A nun was seated next to his bed holding a clipboard loaded with several forms and a pen. She asked him how he was going to pay for his treatment.

"Do you have health insurance?"

He replied in a raspy voice, "No health insurance."

The nun asked, "Do you have money in the bank?"

He replied, "No money in the bank."

"Do you have a relative who could help you with the payments?" asked the nun, now becoming a bit irritated.

He said, "I only have a spinster sister, and she is a nun."

The nurse became somewhat agitated and angrily declared "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God."

The patient replied, "Perfect... Send the bill to my brother-in-law."
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

My wife asked me why I spoke so softly in the house.

I said I was afraid Mark Zuckerberg was listening!

She laughed.

I laughed.

Alexa laughed.

Siri laughed.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

I will seek and find you.

I shall take you to bed and have my way with you.

I will make you ache, shake & sweat until you moan & groan.

I will make you beg for mercy, beg for me to stop.

I will exhaust you to the point that you will be relieved when I'm finished with you.

And, when I am finished, you will be weak for days.

All my love,

v

v

v

v

v

Signed: The Flu

Now, stop thinking about sex, and go get your flu shot!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A lawyer boarded an airplane in New Orleans with a box of frozen crabs and asked a flight attendant take care of them for him.

She took the box and promised to put it in the crew's refrigerator.

He advised her that he was holding her personally responsible for them staying frozen, mentioning in an arrogant manner that he was a lawyer, and threatened what would happen to her if she let them thaw out.

Shortly before landing in New York, she used the intercom to announce to the entire cabin, "Would the lawyer who gave me the crabs in New Orleans, please raise your hand?"

Not one hand went up ... so she took them home and ate them.

Lesson here never screw around with a flight attendant ...!!!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Four old timers were playing their weekly game of golf, one remarked how nice it would be to wake up on Christmas morning, roll out of bed and without an argument go directly to the golf course, meet his buddies and play a round.

His buddies all chimed in said, "Let's do it! We'll make it a priority; figure out a way and meet here early, Christmas morning."

Months later, that special morning arrives, and there they are on the golf course.

The first guy says, "Boy this game cost me a fortune! I bought my wife a diamond ring that she can't take her eyes off of."

The second guy says, "I spent a ton too. My wife is at home planning the cruise I gave her. She was up to her eyeballs in brochures."

The third guy says "Well my wife is at home admiring her new car, reading the manual.

They all turned to the last guy in the group who is staring at them like they have lost their minds.

"I can't believe you all went to such expense for this golf game. I slapped my wife on the bum and said, 'Well babe, Merry Christmas! It's a great morning -- intercourse or golf course --'

She said, "Don't forget your hat."

.....UNQUOTE

(If anyone else has good examples of, for example: - Governmental stupidity and removal of the population's right to live a normal life, or simply any funny, unusual and interesting stories or anecdotes that you feel may interest or amuse our readers, please email them to me as a possible inclusion in a monthly "and Finally"...))